



**UCLG CONGRESS
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**

**New Generation
of Universal Local
Public Services**

**Tangier
Local4Action**

Enhancing Peace Through Local Action and Global Exchange

Dialogue

Date and time: Tuesday, 23 June 2026, 13:00–14:30 Local time

Duration: 90 minutes

Lead organizer (Name / Institution): Open Society Foundations

Co-organizers: UCLG Peace Prize and VNG International

Background

(Max 300 words)

This session aims to provide practical insights into the diversity of ways in which local governments globally are working to enhance peace in their communities. It showcases successful and innovative initiatives and fosters cross-regional exchange between local governments facing similar challenges. The event brings together policymakers, practitioners, and experts to share lessons learned and identify scalable approaches to enhancing peace and improving public safety at the local level.

The side event builds on the examples of local level public safety programs and the experience of the finalists of this year's UCLG Peace Prize. The next first part of the session focuses specifically on public safety in local level environments. Public safety remains one of the most urgent and visible challenges facing cities worldwide. Urban areas are experiencing complex and evolving security dynamics, including organized crime, gender-based violence, youth vulnerability, and strained trust between communities and institutions. Local governments are uniquely positioned to lead integrated, place-based safety strategies that combine prevention, service delivery, and community engagement. Experiences from countries such as Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, and Nigeria illustrate how cities are innovating to address violence through governance reforms, social policies, and partnerships.

The next part of this side event will be a talk show session that brings together representatives from the five local governments that have made it to the finals of this global award for local and regional governments that have successful initiatives to enhance peace in their communities. It demonstrates how local governments leverage their resources and creativity to face challenges to peace and security. This part of the session features an exchange between the speakers enriched by videos that are produced to support their candidacy for the award.



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Objectives / Expected outcomes

- Showcase practical experiences and successful public safety strategies from selected countries.
- Share practical experiences and innovations from Latin America and Africa
- Foster cross-regional exchange between cities facing similar dynamics
- Identify scalable and transferable approaches to violence prevention
- Strengthen collaboration within the UCLG network and beyond

Agenda

Keynote remarks (10 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Binaifer Nowrojee**, Open Society Foundations President
- **Jan van Zanen**, Member of the Executive Presidency of UCLG and Mayor of the Hague

Strengthening Public Safety through local action: Panel Discussion (40 minutes)

This panel discussion is centred around the following question: How can local governments design and sustain effective public safety strategies that build trust, prevent violence, and respond to evolving urban security challenges?

Format: Short interventions

- Colombia: Merly Viana Mayor of San Jacinto and Alvaro Eder Mayor of Cali. Pacific and Atlantic coast experiences on public safety
- Mexico: Luis Rosas, Xquenda Director. Oaxaca *Vecinos por la Paz* Program
- Brazil: Rodrigo Neves, Mayor of Niterói
- Nigeria: Jacob Gbamwuan, Director-General of the Bureau of Homeland Security in Benue State



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Enhancing Peace in our Communities: stories from the UCLG Peace Prize 2026 finalists (40 minutes)

In a talk show setting, we dive into the innovative peace projects of this year's UCLG Peace Prize finalists. This session reflects the diversity of ways in which local governments can work to enhance peace in their communities. The format used is a moderate discussion enriched with videos that are produced in the framework of the Peace Prize finals.

- **Manabí**, Ecuador: a human security approach targeting vulnerable populations through programs that expand access to sports, protection services, health brigades, and economic opportunities for farmers
- **Kapoeta North**, South Sudan: reducing water-related conflicts by strengthening local governance and empowering communities to manage water resources collaboratively
- **North Minahasa**, Indonesia: preventing interreligious conflict by promoting inclusive governance, proactive dialogue, and community-based trust-building.
- **São Paulo**, Brazil: their Maria da Penha Guardian Program aims to protect women facing domestic violence in São Paulo by turning judicial protective measures into real, continuous territorial enforcement
- **Lamu**, Kenya: preventing disasters, social tensions, and security risks from escalating into conflict or violent extremism by embedding peacebuilding as a core function of local governance